

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, 120 SO. SPRING ST.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3606
TDD (213) 897-6610



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April 15, 2003

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies/Interested Organizations and Individuals

Notice of Public Meetings and Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

The California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Department) has prepared a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Third Main Track and Seven Grade Separations project along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway Company's East-West Main Line Railroad Track. The project extends along a 14.7 mile segment of the railway corridor from the City of Commerce to the City of Fullerton. Affected jurisdictions include Los Angeles and Orange Counties and the Cities of Buena Park, Commerce, Fullerton, La Mirada, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, and Santa Fe Springs.

The proposed project consists of implementation of a variety of rail corridor track and grade crossing improvements. The elements of potential improvements include the following:

- 1) Installation of a new third main line track in selected areas (triple tracking with a 15-foot center for most of the alignment);
- 2) Installation of new sidings (storage track);
- 3) Extension or upgrade of existing sidings;
- 4) Upgrading track structure and special track work (two new diamond crossings in the City of Santa Fe Springs);
- 5) Widening San Gabriel River Bridge and modification of the Slauson Avenue Overpass (note that the County of Los Angeles will also be constructing seismic retrofit improvements for this bridge during the same general time frame);
- 6) Upgrading signal systems;
- 7) Modifications to and installation of new bridges;
- 8) Seven proposed new grade separations located within the Cities of:
 - Pico Rivera -- Parsons Boulevard
 - Santa Fe Springs -- Pioneer Boulevard, Norwalk Boulevard, Los Nietos Road, Lakeland Road, Rosecrans Avenue/Marquardt Avenue and Valley View Avenue
 - La Mirada -- Valley View Avenue(Several of the grade separations overlap into unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.)
- 9) After installation of the third track and the Parsons Boulevard grade separation the closure of Serapis Avenue in the City of Pico Rivera at the railroad tracks is proposed.

An EIR for the proposed Third Main Track and Grade Separation Project (SCH# 2002041111) has been prepared as the appropriate environmental determination to comply with the California

Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and evaluate the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction of railroad improvements and seven grade separations. You have been identified as a responsible agency or an interested party and a copy of the Draft EIR with related processing materials is attached for your review/comment. The review period will be from April 4, 2003 to May 19, 2003. Written comments on the Draft EIR should be postmarked no later than **May 19, 2003** and submitted to:

Gary Iverson, Office Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation, District 7
120 South Spring Street, MS 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Copies of the Draft EIR are available for review at the following locations:

Pico Rivera City Hall

6767 Passons Boulevard, Pico Rivera

Santa Fe Springs City Hall

11710 East Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs

La Mirada City Hall

13700 La Mirada Boulevard, La Mirada

Buena Park City Hall

6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park

California Department of Transportation

D-7, Division of Environmental Planning
120 South Spring Street, Los Angeles

Public meetings will be held on the following dates and locations listed below for public comment:

April 29, 2003, 6:30 PM

Buena Park City Hall
6650 Beach Blvd
Buena Park, CA

May 6, 2003, 6:30 PM

Pico Rivera Children's Development Center
7601 Cord Ave
Pico Rivera, CA

April 30, 2003, 6:30 PM

Santa Fe Springs City Hall
11710 E. Telegraph Rd
Santa Fe Springs, CA

May 7, 2003, 6:30 PM

La Mirada Activities Center
13810 La Mirada Blvd
La Mirada, CA

Following the close of the public comment period, the Department proposes to compile and certify the final EIR for the proposed project. Individual actions to authorize, fund, and implement the individual project components (track improvements, grade separations and support facilities) will be made independently by each agency in the future when funding becomes available.

The Draft EIR concluded that implementation of the proposed project would not cause any significant adverse impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures were identified to reduce the potential impacts for several issues, particularly air quality, noise, and water quality.

Please contact Ms. Karen Cadavona at (213) 897-0676 if you have questions regarding the Department's review process for the Draft EIR.

Original signed by

GARY IVERSON
Office Chief
Division of Environmental Planning

G/KC

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